**United Nations**
Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

# Federal Republic of Germany

*By Annelie Anton*

# POSITION OF GERMANY REGARDING WATER FLOW CRISES WORLDWIDE



## General information

Germany deals with a severe water-flow and drought crisis that is mostly driven by the prolonged heatwaves, low snowpacks and the changing weather patterns. The Rhine River is a very important route for industrial shipping and has reached historically low water levels that are disrupting the cargo transport. At Kaub (a city in Germany), the water level reached 0.55 metres in October 2026. The Lake Constance is around 90 cm below its seasonal average, while Germany is facing a groundwater shortfall of approximately 25 billion tonnes. Around half of Germany's districts experience groundwater stress. These shortages threaten the water supplies, several industries(like the Steel, Chemical and Transportation Industry), as well as ecosystems.

## Position on the matter

Germany views the water scarcity as a long-term economic and environmental threat. Germany recognises the water scarcity as a structural problem that is linked to climate change as well as unsustainable water management. A problem that requires long-term attention and policies.

At the national level, the conflicts over water allocation are growing, particularly between the industrial users and communities that depend on groundwater for drinking water.

## Proposed Solution

Germany's "National Water Strategy"(adopted in 2023) is aiming to improve the long-term water security and coordinate water management between federal and state authorities. Germany is also implementing nature-based solutions, that include the restoration of floodplains, reconnecting rivers with natural waterways and improving soil and forest management to retain the water. It also supports regenerative agriculture and improved drainage systems to increase the groundwater storage and reduce water loss to protect existing groundwater. Cities such as Berlin are introducing so-called "urban water retention systems" that include green spaces, infiltration parks and rainwater collection. Germany is upgrading and investing in wastewater recycling and the treatment facilities to provide additional water supplies and reduce pollution.

## Potential Blocks

A potential block would be the European Union (especially France and the Netherlands). Germany could potentially benefit from working together with a common European block/partner, because water scarcity affects several EU member states and coordinated policies, shared research, joint infrastructure investments and common water-management standards would make it easier to address and manage droughts and cross-border water challenges across Europe as well as in Germany.



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